

REMARKS

The above election along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated December 27, 2002 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 5), the period for response to which will expire on March 27, 2003.

Election / Restriction Requirement

The Examiner required election between four species. Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, the continuing examination of the invention of Species I, claims 1-19, directed to a level conversion circuit, having a structure shown in Figure 1. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the substance of claims 1 through 19 and to indicate the allowability of the claims.

Claims 1 through 19 drawn to a level conversion circuit, have been elected in this application, while remaining claims 20 through 22 are provisionally withdrawn from further prosecution without prejudice. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected claims.

Applicants traverse the Examiner's election requirement to the extent that the subject matter claimed by generic claim 12 is illustrated by figures 1, 4, 5, and 6. The subject matter claimed by the rest of the generic claims 1, 14, and 15 (per Examiner's admission in the Office Action, page 2, section 1, line 11) is illustrated by figures 1, 4 and 5. Therefore, the Examiner's allegation that patentably distinct species are illustrated in figures 4, 5, and 6 is not founded. The Examiner states that Species II, illustrated in Fig. 4, Species III, illustrated in Fig. 5 and Species IV, illustrated in Fig. 6 are patentably distinct. That is not the case since figures 4, 5, and 6 illustrate the subject matter claimed by the generic claims.

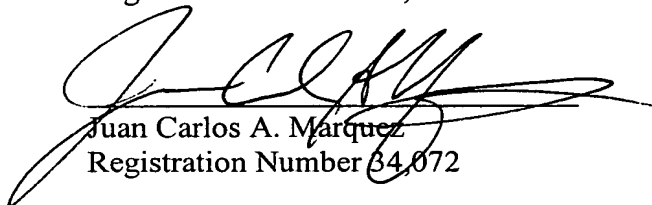
CONCLUSION

Substantive consideration of the elected claims is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of

the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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